

BLUEPRINTS PREFACE

STAR PROGRAM CALIFORNIA STANDARDS TEST

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS

These are the blueprints for the STAR California Standards Test (CST) English-language arts (ELA) multiple-choice tests. The “Previous Blueprint” column shows the standards tested and numbers of multiple-choice questions included in the ELA CSTs before 2003. At that time the ELA CSTs included questions specifically written to address California’s content standards and standards-linked questions from the Stanford 9 norm-referenced test. Beginning in 2003, the ELA CSTs at all grade levels will include only questions that address California’s content standards in English-language arts and will be completely independent of the English-language arts norm-referenced tests. The “2003 Revised Blueprint” column shows the standards tested and numbers of questions included on these independent CSTs. As the blueprint indicates, at grades 2 and 3, the ELA CSTs will consist of 65 multiple-choice questions, and at grades 4 through 11 they will consist of 75 multiple-choice questions. At grades 4 and 7, the ELA CSTs will also include a writing component, the California Writing Standards Test, which will address a writing applications standard selected for testing each year. This component is not indicated on these blueprints.

A clear distinction has been made between the descriptive statements that precede each set of standards, i.e. 1.0, 2.0, etc., and the standards that are actually being assessed, i.e., 1.1, 2.1, etc. The blueprints indicate with ✓ marks the standards that are assessed.

In each grade there are standards that, while important, are not assessable in a multiple-choice format. These standards have been clearly identified with the notation NA*. This notation is not intended to suggest that these standards should not be taught in the classroom. In order for students to have a full understanding of the subject matter to be tested, all of the standards must be covered in instruction, as comprehension of certain tested standards assumes an understanding of standards that may not be assessable within the format of the California Standards Tests.